

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer method for executing data
read/write between a center machine and a target
machine which are connected via a communication line,
5 the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format for
read-out of data stored in the target machine, and

10 sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the target machine via the communication
line,

the target machine

analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format
received via the communication line,

15 reading out the data stored in the target machine
on the basis of an analysis result,

preparing an e-mail of a predetermined format,
which contains the read-out data, and

20 sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the center machine via the communication
line, and

the center machine analyzing the e-mail of the
predetermined format received from the target machine
via the communication line, and obtaining data.

25 2. A data transfer method according to claim 1,
wherein said center machine is a personal computer.

3. A data transfer method according to claim 1,
wherein said communication line is the Internet.

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4. A data transfer method according to claim 1,
wherein said e-mail of the predetermined format is
described in an XML format.

5 5. A data transfer method according to claim 1,
wherein said center machine and said target machine are
provided with firewalls at connection stages with the
Internet.

10 6. A data transfer method for executing
data read/write between a center machine and a
target machine which are connected via a communication
line,

the center machine

15 preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format
which contains data to be written in the target
machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the target machine via the communication
line,

the target machine

20 analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format
received via the communication line,

storing the analyzed data in a predetermined area
in the target machine,

25 preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined format
when the data has been stored, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the
predetermined format to the center machine via the

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communication line, and

the center machine analyzing the ACK e-mail of the predetermined format received from the target machine via the communication line, and confirming that data has normally been written.

7. A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and a target machine which are connected via a communication line,

the target machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format which contains notice information to be sent to the center machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined format to the center machine via the communication line, and

the center machine

analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format received from the target machine via the communication line, and

obtaining the notice information from the target machine.

8. A data transfer method for executing data read/write between a center machine and an image forming apparatus which are connected via a communication line,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format for

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read-out of data stored in the image forming apparatus,
and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,

5 the image forming apparatus

analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format
received via the Internet,

reading out the data stored in the image forming
apparatus on the basis of an analysis result,

10 preparing an e-mail of a predetermined format,
which contains the read-out data, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the center machine via the Internet, and

15 the center machine analyzing the e-mail of the
predetermined format received from the image forming
apparatus via the Internet, and obtaining data.

9. A data transfer method for executing data
read/write between a center machine and an image
forming apparatus which are connected via a

20 communication line,

the center machine

preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format
which contains data to be written in the image forming
apparatus, and

25 sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the image forming apparatus via the Internet,
the image forming apparatus

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analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format
received via the Internet,

storing the analyzed data in a predetermined area
in the image forming apparatus,

5 preparing an ACK e-mail in a predetermined format
when the data has been stored, and

sending the prepared ACK e-mail of the
predetermined format to the center machine via the
Internet, and

10 the center machine analyzing the ACK e-mail of the
predetermined format received from the image forming
apparatus via the Internet, and confirming that data
has normally been written.

15 10. A data transfer method for executing data
read/write between a center machine and an image
forming apparatus which are connected via a
communication line,

the image forming apparatus

20 preparing an e-mail in a predetermined format
which contains notice information to be sent to the
center machine, and

sending the prepared e-mail of the predetermined
format to the center machine via the Internet, and

the center machine

25 analyzing the e-mail of the predetermined format
received from the image forming apparatus via the
Internet, and

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obtaining the notice information from the image
forming apparatus.

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